

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today the House of Representatives voted to pass legislation (H.R. 9) that would add \$46 billion to the deficit for tax cuts that disproportionately benefit the wealthiest Americans. Before voting against the legislation, Representative Xavier Becerra (CA-31), Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus and Ranking Member of the Social Security Subcommittee, delivered the following remarks on the floor of the House:

“When you hear ‘small business,’ what comes up in your mind first? The corner drugstore? The tech troubleshooting start-up? My daughter’s martial arts instructor? How about Donald Trump—Trump Sales and Leasing? Or Paris Hilton Entertainment? What about Larry Flynt Publications? Not that any of these latter companies have volunteered to show me their tax returns, but by all accounts these are the businesses that will devour the lion’s share of the tax breaks in this legislation.”

“Mr. Speaker, 3% of the businesses in America will get 56% of the tax breaks provided. The rich and famous will get most of the money. 125,000 millionaires in America will each get \$58,000 in tax breaks in the first year. That’s how targeted this particular bill is.”

“More than that, what we find is that most Americans don’t believe that our tax system is fair. They believe that it is skewed towards the very wealthy. H.R. 9 proves that they are right. 70% of Americans believe that the tax system is skewed against them and favors the very wealthy.”

“If Paris Hilton, who as we understand has five employees based in Beverly Hills, can take advantage of this tax cut or Donald Trump or Larry Flynt or Kim Kardashian or Oprah Winfrey, all ‘small business’ people, can take advantage and get \$58,000 in tax breaks while most small businesses will get barely anything, then I think the American public is correct.”

“Remember, most businesses in America are sole proprietorships. Most of those have no employees. Under this bill if you’re a sole proprietor and have no employees, you get

zero of the tax break benefits.□

“Now, another example: two companies, both have 500 employees. One company decides to hire 10 more Americans to put on their payroll. The other company decides it's easier to make more money if it takes some of those jobs and puts them overseas, so it fires 10 Americans and outsources those jobs. Guess who gets the tax break? The company that hires 10 new American employees? No. They get nothing. The firm that fires 10 American employees and outsources those jobs to another country? That company will get the benefits of this tax break. □

“The American public is correct. Today’s tax system is skewed towards the wealthy and that's why we have to vote against this legislation. Let us have job creation legislation. Let us focus on small businesses. This does neither. I urge my colleagues to vote against H.R. 9.”